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APPENDIX I
Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

1.   (Five Times Amended) A method for processing a transport stream comprising a plurality of time slots for transporting therein respective programs having a common time base indicated by periodically inserted time stamps, said method comprising:

modifying packets associated with a desired time slot of a received transport stream to produce an output transport stream; and

transmitting said output transport stream; [wherein] said transmitted output transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream wherein a modified packet uses a matching time stamp of said received transport stream.

6.   (Twice Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of modifying packets further comprises:

(1)   examining a packet received from said received transport stream to determine if a slot associated with said received packet corresponds to an insertion slot for said second program to be inserted;

(2)   inserting, into an output transport stream, a next packet of said second [replacement] program if said slot associated with said received packet corresponds to an insertion slot for said second program to be inserted;

(3)   inserting, into said output transport stream, said received packet if said slot associated with said received packet does not correspond to an insertion slot for said second program to be inserted; and

(4) repeating steps (1) through (3) for each packet of said received transport stream until a replacement stream has been fully inserted into said output transport stream.

7.   (Four Times Amended) An apparatus for processing a received transport stream comprising N time slots for transporting therein N respective programs having a

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common time base indicated by periodically inserted time stamps, where N is an integer greater than one,[_]said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source;

a frequency divider for dividing a timing signal from said transport clock source into N timing signals;

N transport encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said N programs; and

a multiplexer, coupled to an output of said N transport encoders, for receiving and modifying packets associated with a desired time slot of one or more transport encoded program streams, said multiplexer producing a processed transport stream, [wherein] said processed transport stream [includes] including respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream,wherein a modified packet uses a matching time stamp of said received transport stream.

12.   (Three Times Amended) Apparatus for processing a received transport stream comprising a plurality of time slots for transporting therein a respective plurality of programs having a common time base indicated by periodically inserted time stamps, said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source;

a frequency divider, for dividing a transport clock timing signal from said transport clock source into a plurality of timing signals; and

a plurality of encoders, each of said encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said plurality of programs to produce a respective encoded program stream, each of said encoded program streams being coupled to a switch via a respective buffer memory;

said switch selectively coupling program stream transport packets from said buffer memories for modifying packets associated with a desired time slot to produce a slotted transport stream, [wherein] said slotted transport stream [includes] including respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said

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periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream, wherein a modified packet uses a matching time stamp of said received transport stream.

26.   (Amended) The [method] apparatus of claim 10, wherein initial and replacement packets associated with said desired time slot represent respective first and second programs.